



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
GUBERNATORIAL PROCLAMATION

APPLE HARVEST MONTH

WHEREAS, apples have been an integral part of Rhode Island's agriculture since the 1600s; and

WHEREAS, the first North American variety, Yellow Sweeting, was developed by William Blackstone in Cumberland, Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, the apple harvest has been supporting Rhode Island's economy since the early part of the 20th Century; and

WHEREAS, apples are the second most valuable fruit grown throughout the United States and ranked in the top 5 crop products for Rhode Island; and

WHEREAS, the Rhode Island Greening apple, developed in 1796, has been the Rhode Island state fruit since 1991; and

WHEREAS, apples represent good nutrition and are part of a diet free from fat, cholesterol, and sodium, and an excellent source of fiber and natural antioxidants; and

WHEREAS, the apple industry is part of the diversification strategy practiced by many of Rhode Island's full-time farmers, and provides supplemental income for a number of part-time farmers and employment for many of our state's citizens; and

WHEREAS, the September apple harvest marks the beginning of the season when all producing orchards in the state open their stands and orchards for farm activities such as Pick Your Own; and

WHEREAS, many orchards throughout the state have become agricultural educators to schools and groups, providing an on-the-farm experience with guided tours and pertinent information about apple production; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Lincoln D. Chafee, Governor of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations, do hereby proclaim September 2011 Apple Harvest Month in the State of Rhode Island and encourage all state residents to recognize the importance of this month.



Given under my hand and the great
seal of the State of Rhode Island
and Providence Plantations,
this 7th day of September, 2011

Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor

A. Ralph Mollis
Secretary of State